

File 481

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The official statistical data and other official and semi-official announcements regarding agricultural yields were unreliable. They complied with the policy of the regime and followed the tendency to favor socialistic-type farming.
2. The actual yield of a state farm was slightly higher than the yield of a Unified Agricultural Cooperative or a private farm. The yield on a cooperative and on a private farm was relatively about the same. The reason state farms had a relatively higher yield was very simple -- the state farms had better production possibilities than the cooperatives and private farms.¹ However, the official data made the yield of state farms appear to be much more favorable than it actually was.
3. The data were incorrect and incomplete and did not reveal the inequality of production possibilities. For instance, official data stated that the yield of wheat on the state farms reached 2,200 kg. per hectare and reached only 1,800 kg. per hectare on private farms. Nothing was said about the fact that the quality of soil was better on state farms than on any other acreage or the fact that the state farms used fertilizers for which they were given priority of supply.
4. The official data did not mention production costs which actually were higher on state farms than on private farms. When praising the yield of certain types of products on state farms the official data never mentioned the failure of certain other crops. Official data for the yields of state farms were based on complete and detailed production records made by the state farms. No such records were kept by private farmers, except in cases of spot control by the authorities at harvest time. Such spot controls took place frequently during 1950 and 1951. Thus, data on yields of private farms were based on the usual average yield common to the particular community. The data were compiled by local national committees and deviations from that average, as they occurred on individual farms, were not taken into consideration. The private farmers were not interested in stating their actual yield, especially in cases where the yield was above average. This was largely because the delivery quotas were usually based on the known average yields.

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5. The crop yields of cooperatives were not higher than yields of private farms, notwithstanding official claims to the contrary. In general, they were on about the same level but, when differing, the yields of cooperatives were more frequently lower than the yields of private farms rather than higher. This was obvious since, should it be otherwise, the income of the cooperatives would also be higher than that of private farms and private farmers would choose to join cooperatives rather than try to leave them. Official data claiming a higher yield on cooperatives than on private farms were also misleading. They followed the same pattern as data described above regarding the state farms. The cooperatives also kept production records and the data were based on all of their yields actually achieved.
6. The official data were correct when claiming that the cooperatives delivered larger quantities of products than the private farmers to the state market through bulk purchase. This was because there were obviously more people on cooperatives than among private farmers who, when requested to do so, were willing to make a surplus delivery as a socialistic contribution. Another reason was that the cooperatives did not make direct retail sales to customers as did private farmers but distributed practically all their produce through bulk purchases. No distinction between the amount of yield actually produced and the amount sold in bulk was made with regard to state farms. No delivery quotas were set up for state farms such as those set up for cooperatives and private farms. On state farms the distribution of produce was determined only after the yield had been harvested and even then all the needs of the state farms themselves were carefully taken into consideration. In general, of the three systems of farming employed, i.e., state farms, Unified Agricultural Cooperatives, and private farms, no single one produced a particular crop yield which was consistently better than that produced by either of the other two.

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